

# Merrick County Board Minutes



## **March 25, 2014**

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Graves, Helgoth, Jefferson, Kucera, Hahn, Weller and Wiegert present. Also present was County Attorney Lynelle Homolka.

Moved Jefferson, second Kucera to convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:05 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Notice of the meeting was given thereof by publications in the Republican Nonpareil and The Palmer Journal and on the Merrick County website. Proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's Office. Copies of the agenda were mailed to each Supervisor and kept current and available to the public at the County Clerk's Office.

Chairman Wiegert declared the meeting was preceded by publicized notice and having acknowledged and identified the location of the posting of the current copy of the Open Meetings Act, called the meeting to order and in open session at 9:05 a.m.

Moved Kucera, second Hahn to convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:05 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Agenda:** Moved Helgoth, second Kucera to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Minutes:** Moved Jefferson, second Kucera to approve the minutes of March 11, 2014 as printed. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Meeting reports:** Hahn and Graves attended the Senior Center Meeting last Thursday; Graves attended the Safety meeting a week ago; Helgoth said that he did not attend but Sheriff Campbell went and met with the new Emergency Manager; Kucera attended the Extension Board meeting and last Thursday attended the Mid Nebraska meeting in Kearney.

**Officials report:** Troy Ingram, Extension Educator, said their office would be closed so they could all attend the Livestock Friendly function at McHargue's Swine Barn. The 4-H pancake feed will be Thursday, March 27, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Ingram also informed the Board about other things the Extension office will be involved in doing this spring. County Attorney Homolka said that Tyco had come out to install the rest of the cameras in the courthouse but ran into a snag with the remote access to the Sheriff's Office. Hopefully, one more visit from Tyco and the problem will be taken care of.

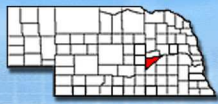
**Return of sale proceedings:** Treasurer Bolte gave the Board a copy of the sale proceeds from the tax sale. Bolte said there were 100 parcels sold and 29 bidders. The number of unsold parcels was 116.

**Carpet cleaning bid:** Brite Express presented a bid for cleaning the carpets on the second and third floors of the courthouse in the amount of \$1,619.25. The carpets were installed in 2007 and have not been cleaned since. If their bid is accepted they will try to get the carpets done on Saturday. They have not recoated any of the floors because of the snow and salt. They will begin recoating the floors in April. Moved Weller, second Graves to accept the bid of \$1,619.25 from Brite Express to clean the carpets on the second and third floors. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**NACO Benefit Services:** Dennis Maggart of NACO Benefit Services presented the Board with health insurance quotes from Blue Cross Blue Shield, United Healthcare, Coventry, and CoOpportunity. Maggart said the rates for business with fewer than 50 employees are based on age. There is a wide variety of rates for 50 to 100 employees because carriers have chosen to treat those companies differently. Some are using age and some are using the claims, but by 2016, all carriers will rate on age. The carriers that NACO Benefit Services presented are still coming from NACO. The deductibles will transfer and if the County would go with one of these carriers, they would come out and go over the insurance with the employees.

**Weed Superintendent:** Nance County Weed Superintendent, Kevin Koziol, asked the Board if they had hired anyone yet for Weed Superintendent Corwin Roscoe's position. Koziol was wondering if Merrick County would be interested in having him do Merrick County also. He started at Nance County in 2011 and he gave the Board a brief overview of his experience. He would like to see what Roscoe has for files and the Board said they would like to talk to Nance County first to see if they would even be interested in an agreement with Merrick County. The Board told Koziol they would be in contact with him one way or another. Moved Kucera, second Graves to go into executive session at 10:00 a.m. for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Roll Call: All Ayes. Moved Hahn, second Kucera to go out of executive session at 10:10 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes. Moved Graves, second Kucera to talk to Nance County about going into a cooperative agreement with them for weed control. Merrick County will wait for their answer before hiring. Roll Call: All Ayes. Helgoth will talk to the Nance County Board Chairman and will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

**Strong Financial:** Chad Svoboda, with Strong Financial gave the Board a brief review of two of their health insurance providers, Blue Cross Blue Shield and CoOpportunity. Svoboda said that CoOpportunity was created with a low interest loan and not grant money. Hamilton County will move to CoOpportunity April 1, 2014 and Nance County already has moved to CoOpportunity. They have had thirty groups since January 1, 2014 that have switched to CoOpportunity.



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**RESOLUTION 2014-5:** Treasurer Bolte presented RESOLUTION 2014-5 to the Board for their approval to transfer \$300,000.00 from the Inheritance Fund to the General Fund to cover the March 2014 expenses and payroll. Moved Graves, second Weller to approve and sign RESOLUTION 2014-5 to have the Treasurer transfer \$300,000.00 from the Inheritance Fund to the General Fund to cover the March 2014 expenses and payroll. Roll Call: All Ayes.

RESOLUTION 2014-5 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing.

**RESOLUTION 2014-6:** Treasurer Bolte presented RESOLUTION 2014-6 to the Board for their approval to increase her 9540 petty cash fund by \$5,500.00 because of the postage machine. It takes 10 days to get postage checks cleared and postage on the machine and there is not always a Board meeting to get approval right away. When the auditors were here, they suggested this resolution to solve the problem. Moved Weller, second Jefferson to approve and sign RESOLUTION 2014-6 to increase her 9540 petty cash fund by \$5,500.00 because of the postage machine. Roll Call: All Ayes. RESOLUTION 2014-6 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing.

**RESOLUTION 2014-7:** Clerk Wichmann said that she needed to increase the petty cash in her clerk's account by \$900.00 making it \$1,000.00, because some banks, title companies, etc. charge fees and they are not collected until the following month. By statute Wichmann has to turn fees over to the Treasurer from the previous month by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month and this would cover the charged amounts until those checks are received and deposited. Moved Jefferson, second Graves, to approve and sign RESOLUTION 2014-7 to increase the clerk's petty cash account to \$1,000.00. Roll Call: All Ayes. RESOLUTION 2014-7 is on file in the County Clerk's Office for public viewing.

**State Auditors:** The contract for the State Auditors for auditing has run out. A new contract was presented for the County to consider for a one, two, or three year period with the fees not exceeding \$14,000.00 for each year. Moved Hahn, second Kucera to approve a new three year contract with the State Auditors to do the Merrick County audits for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014 for \$14,000.00, fiscal year ended June 30, 2015 for \$14,000.00 and \$14,000.00 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Representation letter:** The State Auditors provided a letter in connection with the fiscal years 2012/2013 audit they just completed. The letter states that the Board confirms they are responsible for the fair presentation of the financial statements in conformity with the cash basis of accounting. Moved Weller, second Graves to have the Chairman sign the representation letter from the State Auditors in connection with the fiscal years 2012/2013 audit they just completed. The letter states that the Board confirms they are responsible for the fair presentation of the financial statements in conformity with the cash basis of accounting. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Bader Park:** County Attorney Homolka had made some changes to the Bader Park agreement and they were presented to the Board. After some discussion, more changes were made. Moved Weller, second Hahn to table the Bader Park Agreement until the next Board meeting. Roll Call: All Ayes.

**Estate taxes:** Chris Steinke, Diane Schultz, and Dennis Szatko were present to discuss an issue they had with taxes regarding their father's estate.

**March 2014 payroll:** The March 2014 payroll was presented to the Board for their approval: General: Gross: \$98,069.28 Net: \$70,269.75 Roads: Gross: \$44,749.86 Net: \$29,173.73 Juvenile Diversion: Gross: \$2,331.33 Net: \$1,535.70. Moved Jefferson, second Hahn to approve the March 2014 payroll as presented. Roll Call: Ayes: Weller, Graves, Jefferson, Hahn, and Wiegert. Helgoth and Kucera said Aye to the ones they signed.

**Adjourn:** Moved Helgoth, second Jefferson to adjourn at 12:09 p.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

/s/Roger Wiegert, Chairman

/s/Marcia Wichmann, County Clerk